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TETTENHALL
URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT FOR 1898.

TETTENHALL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT FOR 1898.

15th ANNUAL REPORT.

Population Census, 1881	4636
„ „ 1891 (June)	5145
Population estimated by natural increase to June, 1898 ...	5584
Area in Statute Acres	1220
Inhabited Houses, 1881	940
„ „ 1891	1056
Tettenhall Local Board Constituted	1883
Adoption of Bye-laws	1887
„ Notification Act	1889
Sewerage Works commenced 1890, finished	1892
Isolation Hospital provided	1891
Public Scavenging inaugurated May	1897

TABLES.

A—Tables of Deaths.

B—Tables of Population, Births, and New Cases of Infectious Diseases.

C—Table of Epidemics from 1883 to 1898.

D—Table of Scarlet Fever.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT FOR 1898.

To the Chairman of the District Council.

Sir,

During 1898 there were 140 Births and 79 Deaths.

The Population of Tettenhall estimated to the middle of the year was 5 584, an annual increase of 64.

The Birth Rate was 25 and the Death Rate 14·1, the Infant Mortality being 164·2 per thousand births.

There were 30 Deaths of children under five. 6 were from Measles; 3 from Diarrhœa; 5 from Chest Complaints; and 16 from other diseases. 6 of the last Deaths were uncertified and attributed to premature birth.

The remaining 49 Deaths were certified as follows :—Measles, 2; Consumption, 3; Chest Complaints, 5; Heart Disease, 3; other diseases 36.

Year.	Population.	Births.	Deaths.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
1891	5145	135	62	26·2	12·0
1892	5239	128	68	24·2	12·9
1893	5314	154	77	28·9	14·9
1894	5344	142	69	26·5	12·9
1895	5385	132	110	24·5	20·4
1896	5434	148	58	27·2	10·6
1897	5520	130	66	23·5	11·9
1898	5584	140	79	25·0	14·1

Infectious Diseases. There have been 18 cases of Infectious Diseases notified. They were as follows :—Scarlet Fever, 11 ; Diphtheria, 1 ; Typhoid, 3 ; and Erysipelas, 3.

Scarlet Fever. 7 cases were treated at home and 4 removed to the Hospital.

On January 1st a Child with Scarlet Fever was removed to the Hospital from the Upper Green. On January 17, a Boy contracted the same complaint in High Street, Tettenhall. His Sister was sent away and the Boy treated at home.

On February 1st the Disease appeared in Waterworks Lane, at a shop, which was closed till the child was convalescent. On February 13th a Child was removed from New Village and unhappily died in the Hospital.

On March 13th another Child from the same house was taken to the Hospital and also died.

On March 22nd a further case was reported from Compton and treated at home.

A case of Scarlet appeared in Nursery Walk on 20th May, and seven days later the mother contracted a sore throat, which was reported as "Diphtheria."

On July 27th another case was notified from Nursery Walk and treated at home as there were no other children.

A case from Horsehill Terrace, Finchfield, notified on August 8th, was also treated at home.

The last case was on September 27th; it was taken to the Hospital.

A case of Scarlet Fever was reported from Wightwick, but further investigation proved that it was one of those anamalous rashes produced by epidemic Influenza.

Diphtheria. The extensive epidemic of 1895-6 was followed by six cases of Diphtheria in 1897, and one doubtful case in 1898.

On November 12th a case of Diphtheria was notified from Compton Holloway, but the diagnosis was not confirmed on Bacteriaological Examination.

A circular, dated October 17th, was received from the Medical Officer to the County Council, in which the County Council offers to pay for the examination of Diphtheria secretions, if the Tettenhall Board provide the necessary appliances. The offer was accepted at the November Meeting of your Council, with results which have hitherto been satisfactory, for in the cases notified as Diphtheria, up to the present date (March, 1899), the diagnosis has not been sustained by the examination of the Throat Secretion.

Typhoid. 3 cases of Typhoid were notified. The first was on January 1st, from Finchfield. The Child was three years old and had a remarkable convalescence. Another case from Finchfield, aged 6, on October 5th also had a favourable termination. The third notification was received from Tettenhall Wood.

A notification was also received from the Medical Officer of Health for Wolverhampton that a man admitted from Compton and suffering from Typhoid was being treated in the General Hospital.

The adoption of Erysipelas as a notifiable disease is unsatisfactory, most of the patients being subjects for the dentist.

On the other hand the importance of **Measles** is not recognised. It is not included in our local schedule, yet there have been 29 Deaths from Measles since the formation of the Tettenhall Board in 1883, as compared with 10 Deaths from Scarlet Fever. 230 cases of Scarlet Fever have been notified during that period, and about 560 cases of Measles found out by your officials.

Measles appeared in January in this District, and on February 21st over 60 children were absent from the Tettenhall Wood Schools. The Schools were closed from March 1st to Easter, but cases kept cropping up till May 5th. From January to May it was ascertained by your Inspector and his Clerk that at least 230 children suffered from Measles.

Chicken Pox was prevalent in November, and the question was raised whether School Notices should be issued for this Disease, as it is a trivial ailment and not notifiable.

It has been the practice of the Sanitary Authority to issue School Notices in all cases of Infectious Disease, whether notifiable or not, and this course was confirmed at the January Meeting of the Council.

In my Annual Report for 1895 a table is given of the period of Isolation and Quarentine after Infectious Diseases.

The table was adopted from the Report of the Medical Officers of the Great Public Schools, and has the weight of authority.

Sanitary Work. Inspections of old property were made at Wightwick Bank, Compton, and the Lower Street, Tettenhall.

There are a number of old houses which are let at low rents to the poor, and are unremunerative to the owners.

They afford at least shelter and some comfort for people of small means, and, until some provision is made for the housing of the poor, a too zealous criticism by the Sanitary Authority would drive the tenants to the Workhouse or the slums of the neighbouring town.

But when property is delapidated through the fault of the landlord, and dirty through the fault of the tenant, something must be done.

Such a combination called for unfavourable comments from a coroner's jury viewing a body in Wightwick Bank.

It consisted of three old cottages in bad repair. The brick floors were broken up so that it was impossible to keep them clean, the hearths were in ruins, the stairs and upper floors unsafe, the roof leaked, and the slops converted the yard into a morass. The closets also were dirty, and one had no door. The usual notices

were issued to the owners, but without effect, so a closing order was obtained in September.

A similar property of eight houses at Compton was inspected in October, 1896, in June, 1897, and again in July, and the necessary repairs were undertaken after exhausting the patience of the Council.

The number of closets was doubled, but the tenants complained that they were such nice closets that neighbours and tramps insisted on using them.

The Lower Street, Tettenhall, is unfortunately situated. On the one side it receives the percolations of the Churchyard, on the other it is bounded by the Swamp, which is irrigated by a putrid brook. Nests of courts with fowl houses and stables surround two butchers' shops and two public houses. Yet the houses are clean as a rule, and there is not the squalid and careless poverty one meets in Compton.

To the cottages opposite the "New Inn" are attached four middens, three of these being in a filthy condition. The fourth was not offensive owing to the care of the tenant. Unless waste water closets can be substituted for these middens, the ashpits in connection with them should be roofed. There is a complaint against the Council, that though the inspection was made on August 6th, the ashpits had not been cleansed since Christmas, but this is disproved by the books of the Surveyor.

Mr. Nicholls' shop, slaughterhouse, cowbyres, pigstyes, and middens were well kept, clean and sweet. The adjoining butcher's shop, though small, was also well kept The stable was also clean but too near the house.

It is a matter of notoriety that the Smestow Brook is the open sewer for Heath Town. The brook was once polluted by Tettenhall and Wolverhampton, but Wolverhampton has sewered the district

Hand-flushed closets have been substituted at the end of the year.

which was drained by the brook which rises in Ablow Street, and Tettenhall has a sewerage system which is almost complete except in the Wergs District.

The sewerage at Heath Town is said to be steadily advancing, and it is hoped that in three months' this authority will no longer pollute the brook. The branch sewer at the outfall Works at Coven was formally opened on March 25th, 1899.

Report of Sanitary Inspector.

The removal of night soil and house refuse was undertaken by the Council from 10th May, 1897. In that year, Mr. Mortimer reported that in eight months 650 loads from 566 houses had been removed. In 1898, 1,246 loads of refuse have been removed from 1,294 houses, and 804 ashpits and 921 privies cleansed. He states that if it were not for the rubbish (*i.e.* tins and broken crockery) there would be no difficulty in disposing of the products of middens for agricultural purposes.

With regard to the sewers he says that the sewer terminals or cul-de-sacs have proved troublesome owing to flat gradients. There is not sufficient water to flush the inverts, and he recommends some portable system for flushing in special cases.

The sewers in Aldersley Lane and Old Hill are unfavourably mentioned, while that on the Finchfield Road, which has a good head and flow of sewage, was blocked by breakage.

The drains of 32 houses were connected with the sewerage system, making a total of 1,076 houses now in communication with the sewers. In the census of 1891 it will be noticed that there were 1,056 houses in this district.

Water Mains from the Public Works have been extended on the Bridgnorth Road, Finchfield Road and Grange Road, a total distance of 282 yards, and tap water has been laid on to 21 houses as well as to the Tettenhal Wood and Finchfield Schools.

Mr. Mortimer reports that 22 legal notices and 209 informal notices were served, while 209 nuisances were reported and 195 remedied.

In his report it may be noticed that 22 cesspools out of 27 have been done away with ; of 7 houses unfit for human habitation 3 have been closed and 4 made fit ; 31 offensive privies altered ; 26 out of 28 delapidated privies repaired ; insufficient accommodation remedied in 6 instances ; of 13 privies too near dwellings 7 were removed ; one roofless ashpit roofed ; 16 blocked W.C.'s unstopped and 1 altered; structural defects of houses repaired in 7 instances ; and nuisances from animals remedied and heaps of manure removed.

The Inspector states that 19 Dairies and Milkshops, 16 Cowsheds, 8 Bakehouses, and 4 Slaughterhouses have been examined and found clean and satisfactory.

The improved condition of the roads during recent years deserves commendation.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. H. T. WINTER.

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health, 1898.

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF TETTENHALL.

(A) Deaths Registered during the year 1898, showing also the Births therein during the year.

	Population		Registered Births.			Deaths from all causes at subjoined ages.								Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing deaths of Children under 5 years age.																													
						At all ages.														Fevers.																							
	Census, 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1898.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Under 1 year.	1 year and under 5.	5 years and under 15.	15 years and under 25.	25 years and under 65.	65 years and upwards.		Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera	Erysipelas	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhœa or Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Ague.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pluerisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	Total.					
															Under 5.											6		3				5			16	30					
Totals	5145	5584	75	65	140	38	41	79	23	7	3	1	18	27	5 and upwards											2					3	5	3		36	49					

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health, 1898.

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF TETTENHALL.

B. New Cases of Infectious Sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1898, enumerating the Number of Houses Infected, the Total Number of Deaths, also the Number of Cases Treated and the Deaths that occurred in the Infectious Hospital.

		Smallpox.	Scarlatina	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Continued Fever.	Relapsing Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Cholera	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough
Houses Infected...			11	1			3					3		
Total Cases reported among persons belonging to District	Under 5 ..		5				1					1	230	
	5 & upwards		6	1			2					2		
Total deaths reported among persons belonging to District	Under 5 ..												6	
	5 & upwards												2	
Cases treated in Hospital among persons belonging to the District...	Under 5 ...		4											
	5 & upwards		2				1							
Deaths occurring in Hospital among persons belonging to District ...	Under 5 ...		2											
	5 & upwards													

A COMPARATIVE TABLE OF EPIDEMIC DISEASES, from 1883—1898.

TABLE C.

	Smallpox.		Scarlet Fever. SEE TABLE D.		Diphtheria.		Typhoid.		Puerperal Fever		Measles.		Epidemic Influenza.	
Year.	No. of Cases	d'aths	No. of Cases	d'aths	No. of Cases	d'aths	No. of Cases	d'aths	No. of Cases	deaths.	No. of Cases	deaths.	No. of Cases	deaths.
1883			5		1									
1884	7	1	6				1				xx	2		
1885							1				5			
1886					1	1	1				115	5		
1887			1	1	1		8	3			34	5		
1888			2				1							
1889*											49	3	xx	
1890			16	1			3				86	1	xx	
1891			17				3	1	1		x	1	xx	
1892			14		6	2	6		1		3		x	
1893	1		29		1		6							
1894			46	3	12	5	2	1	1	1	40	3		
1895			24	1	60	15	2		1	1			x	3
1896			50	2	40	4	1						x	1
1897			9		6		1							
1898			11	2	1		3				230	8	x	
TOTALS.	8	1	230	10	129	27	39	5	4	2	562	28		4

NOTE—A few cases x. Prevalent xx. Very Prevalent xxx.

* Adoption of Infectious Diseases Notification Act.

SCARLET FEVER.

TABLE D.

Year.	Rent of Hospital.	Charges for Board and Treatment in Hospital.	No. of days charged at 1/6	No. of days charged at 2/6	No. of Patients in Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital.	Patients not treated in Hospital.	No. of Deaths in Patients not treated in Hospital.
1892	£40	£16 2 6	215	—	4	—	10	—
1893	£40	£54 10 6	512	129	13	—	16	—
1894	£40	£61 17 6	728	33	17	2	29	1
1895	£40	£34 14 0	431	19	9	—	15	1
1896	£40	£151 12 6	975	629	32	2	18	—
1897	£40	£18 13 6	249	—	4	—	5	—
1898	£40	£8 9 6	113	—	4	2	7	—